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Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pedro **Cardoso** (Brazil)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 5th, 9th and 33rd meetings, from 3 to 5 and on 10 October and on 2 November 2005. At its 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 61 jointly with items 62 and 63. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/60/SR.1-5, 9 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/80);

(b) Letter dated 5 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Doha Declaration and Doha Plan of Action adopted by the Second South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Doha, from 12 to 16 June 2005 (A/60/111).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 3 October, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the representative of the United Nations

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Volunteer Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (see A/C.3/60/SR.1).

5. Also at the 1st meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development and the representative of the United Nations Volunteer Programme responded to a question posed by the representative of South Africa (see A/C.3/60/SR.1).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.5 and Rev.1

6. At the 9th meeting, on 10 October, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/60/L.5). Belarus joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The draft resolution read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,
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> "*Recalling also* the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, observed during the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, held in New York in February 2005,
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> "*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,
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> "*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,
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> "*Recalling also* its resolution 57/120 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,
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> "1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;
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> "2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the *Report on the World Social Situation 2005: The Inequality Predicament* and its main finding that the development agenda cannot be advanced unless the challenges of inequality within and between countries are addressed;
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> "3. *Welcomes* the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session;

"4. *Also welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

"5. *Reaffirms* the recognition that the implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, are mutually reinforcing and that the commitments made at the Summit are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development;

"6. *Recognizes* that, while action taken to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions in the economic, social and related fields held during the past ten years will further promote social development, strengthened and effective international and regional cooperation and assistance for development and progress towards increased participation, greater social justice and improved equity in societies will also be required;

"7. *Also recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that while poverty is a central part of development policy and discourse, the other two issues addressed by the Summit, employment and social integration, have suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

"8. *Emphasizes* that poverty reduction policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated into those policies;

"9. *Reaffirms* that employment policies should promote decent work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity and that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies;

"10. *Also reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to education and health care and counter the negative effects of globalization on social development and the new threats posed by market-driven reforms;

"11. *Further reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development will continue to have primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

"12. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in particular those set out under the heading "Meeting the special needs of Africa", underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the

Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"13. *Also reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and further reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

"14. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the Assembly at that session."

7. At its 33rd meeting, on 2 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/60/L.5/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.5 and Azerbaijan, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Jamaica orally revised the text as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 13 was merged with operative paragraph 15 to read as follows:

"*Reaffirms also* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the

importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;"

(b) The subsequent operative paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

10. Also at the 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.5/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 12).

11. After the adoption of the resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the United States of America (see A/C.3/60/SR.33).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

12. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report on the world social situation, 2005[6] and one of its main findings, that the development agenda cannot be advanced without addressing the challenges of inequality within and between countries and that the failure to address this inequality predicament will ensure that social justice and better living conditions for all people will remain elusive and that communities, countries and regions will remain vulnerable to social, political and economic upheaval;

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] A/60/80.

[6] A/60/117.

3. *Welcomes* the outcome of the ten-year review of the World Summit for Social Development,[7] which took place during the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, in February 2005;

4. *Also welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

5. *Reaffirms* the recognition that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[3] are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development;

6. *Recognizes* that, while action taken to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions in the economic, social and related fields held during the past ten years will further promote social development, strengthened and effective international and regional cooperation and assistance for development and progress towards increased participation, greater social justice and improved equity in societies will also be required;

7. *Also recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

8. *Emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

9. *Reaffirms* the commitment to employment policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies;

10. *Reaffirms also* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education and health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms on social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

11. *Reaffirms further* that the Commission for Social Development will continue to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A.

encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

12. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in "Meeting the special needs of Africa" at the 2005 World Summit,[4] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

13. *Reaffirms also* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

14. *Reaffirms further*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

15. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

16. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability, including for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

17. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the Assembly at that session.